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CONTENTS

Editorial		2
Obituary: Harvey Kershaw,MBE		3
Life is a Song	Harvey Kershaw	4
'A Little Larnin' - a Riposte	Brian Hollinworth	5
Dialect in and Around Garstang	Judith Swarbrick	8
A Note on A.J. Ellis	Graham Shorrocks	16
From The Book of Daniel	Fred Palmer	19
Edwin Waugh Songs - Settings	John Levitt	22
Sweepin' t' Chimney	Eli Hague	27

Poems

Out o' Wark	Harold Pate	31
Lancashire Music	Fred Palmer	32

Book Reviews

Contributed by Graham Shorrocks

Longman Concise English Dictionary Roget's Thesaurus	33
P. Trudgill (ed): Language in the British Isles	35
Robert Burchfield: The English Language	39
Atlas Linguarum Europae	42
Note: Dr Graham Shorrocks	45

The Lancashire Dialect Society

Officers and Committee	46
Accounts	47
Meetings Diary for 1986	48
The Secretary's Note-Pad	50

ATLAS LINGUARUM EUROPAE: Cartes - Volume I, Premier Fascicule, 20 four-coloured maps, 38 x 48 cm; *Commentaires* - Volume I, premier fascicule, XCVIII + 177 pages. Assen (van Gorcum) 1983. Paper covers, maps with spiral binding, 175,00 Dutch guilders.

I should like to begin this review with a tribute to our late member, Bob Shepherd. When I carried out the fieldwork at Pilling (Lancs) for the European Linguistic Atlas in 1976 Bob keenly volunteered to act as an informant. The responses which he made to the questions of the ALE Questionnaire were unusually rich in dialect forms. It is good to see these responses now published, together with responses from all over Europe, in these the first volumes of ALE materials. In order to do full justice to these volumes, the reader will require a reading knowledge of three languages, namely French, English and German. The main system of abbreviations (i.e. the one used on the maps) is in French, whilst the introductory chapters and commentaries are each written in one of the three languages.

The volumes are well-produced, and the maps are clear to read, given the large amount of data involved. The general introductory matter contains details of the various national committees, the system of abbreviations, the ALE network of localities, sources of data, the phonetic script, transliteration, computer mapping, and so on. The *Cartes* volume contains 20 maps, which cover the first 14 questions of the Questionnaire, (i.e more than one map for certain concepts), and the *Commentaires* volume contains the first 14 commentaries in addition to the introductory materials. The scale of the ALE maps is 1:10 million. Four colours are used to distinguish the following: I political frontiers, capitals, great rivers, seas; II mountains; III net points and language codes; IV symbols and text of final interpretative map. A blank groundmap is included in a pocket at the end of the volume as a sample of the blank maps that can be ordered from the Editorial Secretariat as working maps, and as an aid to working with interpretative maps, whose symbols might in part have obscured the original net points.

It is suggested that the computer-produced maps have the following advantages: I overall the amount of time required is less, and costs are therefore lower; II procedures may be repeated at will, and the entire material accessed in terms of a wide variety of problems; III automatic processing requires a strict formulation of all procedures and criteria, and ensures consistency and fewer errors than would otherwise be the case.

The ALE net is not uniform. Each country has been allowed to participate "on the basis of its own possibilities and criteria" (p.xxxiv). Different countries collected materials in different ways, using I new fieldwork; II published sources, e.g. existing national linguistic atlases; III unpublished archives. Whilst this must have been expedient, and is perhaps the only way in which such a large-scale project could have been carried out in practice, one must lament the loss of synchrony due to the chronological discrepancies involved in such a procedure, and the general loss of systematicity. Where more than one response was made to a question, priority was accorded to the more regressive or traditional form.

A major achievement of the ALE is to have elicited data regardless of the limitations of national frontiers: "... the continuum of dialects often crosses political frontiers: hence the need to recompose a broken picture, to place together national atlases in more meaningful units, those offered by language groups, such as Romania, Germania, Slavonia and the like" (p.xix). The frontiers of national atlases are political, whereas the frontiers of language-group atlases are linguistic. Furthermore, the aim of the ALE is not just to elicit and present data, but also to interpret them: "... raw data <u>must</u> be interpreted if they are to acquire meaning" (p.xix).

Lexicon is the linguistic level of concern in these first publications. Traditional work in word geography has been primarily onomasiological - and very little of that has covered whole groups of languages. Whilst the importance of onomasiology for general history is stressed, there is also emphasis laid upon the ALE's contribution at the semasiological level, i.e. in terms of <u>semantic motivations</u>. This motivational approach is both novel and important, and "... in the wide horizon offered by the ALE (it) finds not only a challenge, but also a theoretical justification and an adequate test" (p.xxiv).

Tracing and dating crosscultural relationships amongst the six major language families in Europe implies large-scale mapping procedures of the ALE type. Alieni argues forcefully: "... there is little chance of a serious breakthrough in historical and geographic linguistics unless different language groups and families are studied simultaneously in their mutual relationships and on the basis of one of their most important parameters, namely their dialect continuum in historical and modern times. Dialects, and not only languages, since any comparative study of standard languages, such as Buck (1971) and many others, by neglecting dialects, necessarily gives only a partial and incomplete reconstruction of the linguistic continuum; modern dialects, and not only ancient languages, as is traditional in Indo-European studies, for it is possible that modern dialects preserve more archaic features than the most archaic written documents, as has been repeatedly shown in Romance dialectology with regard to Latin, and in folklore by Propp (1946), who has proved that modern folk literature can be more ancient than ancient mythology" (pp. xxiiff).

The individual commentaries throw up many points of interest. At a very general level, ARC-EN-CIEL is a good example of the need to map semantic motivations on account of the plethora of different forms, whilst at a more specific level SOLEIL shows that diminutive suffixes do not always have a diminutive value. Also, inevitably, there are some lessons to be learned. No fewer than three of these first fourteen commentaries draw attention to problems occasioned by the failure to elicit or record grammatical gender consistently - SOLEIL (p.4), LUNE (p.10), and LAC (p.128). Also, the vague formulation of the question for LAC, which overlaps conceptually with ETANG, FLAQUE D'EAU and MER, created problems. It is particularly desirable at all times to make clear whether a natural or an artificial water is intended.

In brief, it is hoped that the ALE will represent the realisation of national or regional atlases which have not been produced to date, and at the same time represent language-group atlases for Europe. It is further hoped that it will pioneer the study of semantic motivations in large-scale projects; that the study of languages, and language groups in contact will be fruitful for our understanding of cross-cultural relationships; and that it will facilitate the study of isoglosses which transcend a single language, language group or language family.

Note For further details of the ALE and its Questionnaires see Weijnen et. al. (1975), Weijnen and Kruijsen (1976) and Weijnen and Kruijsen (1979).

GRAHAM SHORROCKS

Note: Dr Graham Shorrocks

Readers of this Journal during the last ten years or so will have become familiar with the writings of Dr Graham Shorrocks, a member of the committee of the Society and a scholar with a particular interest in the dialect of Farnworth, on which he gained his doctorate. The book-reviews which precede this note show his breadth and industry; and as the Editor I have counted myself fortunate to have his pen, and his erudition, on call so readily.

Members of the Society will be glad to know that his career has moved into another phase with his appointment as an Assistant Professor of English at St John's University, Newfoundland; an appointment which he will take up shortly after this Journal appears. The Secretary joins me in wishing him well on behalf of the Society, and expressing our pleasure in knowing that he will remain a member, and a contributor to the Journal.

J.L.